

REMARKS

This amendment is being submitted concurrently with a TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A SUBMISSION UNDER 35 USC 371 which may be submitted on or before, Tuesday, October 10, 2006. Because October 8, 2006 fell on Sunday, the submission under 35 USC 371 on October 9, 2006 is timely despite the priority date that was April 8, 2004.

By means of the amendment to the claims, a set of new claims 16 to 29 are being submitted to replace the currently pending claims 1-15 that were received by the European International Preliminary Examination Authority (IPEA/EP) on March 22, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tsugihiko Suzuki', written over a horizontal line.

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Date: October 9, 2006

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